NEW ENGLAND FARMER,

AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

PUBLISHED BY JOSEPH BRECK & CO., NO. 52 NORTH MARKET STREET, (AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSE.)

VOL. XVIII.] BOSTON, WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 22, 1840. [NO. 29.

N. E. FARMER.

FIRST AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

We gave in our last number a portion of Mr Webster's speech at the first agricultural meeting, held the evening previous to our paper's going to press, on the subject of English Husbandry in comparison with that of Massachusetts. We are not familiar with reporting speeches. We practise a very imperfect short hand. Our notes are few; and we mainly rely upon our recollection to give the leading sentiments uttered in cases where we attempt a report. We are happy in believing that our readers will in this case deem even our imperfect reports better than none; though they fall very far short of doing justice to the speakers.

In the hurry of writing off the speech from our notes, some errors occurred, which it is desirable to correct. The southern parts of England are not *sandy*, as there stated, but a thin light loam resting upon chalk. Beans and peas are not *green* crops, as remarked, but white and exhausting crops, because they are allowed to perfect their seed. That where one bushel of oats was raised ten bushels of turnips could be produced, should have been stated in the form of a supposition and not as an ascertained fact. The case of the person alluded to as to be employed through the winter in digging turnips, should have included also his slicing them and feeding them to the sheep; and this is the winter occupation of hundreds in England.

We give these corrections in justice to Mr W. But we have also the pleasure to say that Mr Webster at our request, has engaged, as soon as his leisure will permit, after he reaches Washington, to write out and enlarge his speech on this occasion, and we then propose to issue it in a pamphlet form; and we hope at the same time to be able to add a full and corrected report of the instructive remarks of Professor Silliman on the same occasion, of which we now give an imperfect abstract. We know they will be received with great interest and pleasure by the agricultural public. H. C.

—

MR WEBSTER proceeded in his remarks to state that the agricultural subject which now most strongly engrossed the public attention was that of the draining of lands. The draining to which he particularly alluded was what is called tile draining. Much of England, as he had stated, was based upon a clayey and retentive subsoil. Wetness is prejudicial and destructive to the crop. Marginal drains or drains on the outside of the fields, do not always produce the desired results. These tile drains have effected most important improvements. The tile itself is made of clay, baked like bricks; about one foot in length, four inches in width, three fourths of an inch in thickness, and stands from six to eight inches in height, being hemispherical, or like the half of a cylinder with its sides elongated. It resembles the Dutch tiles sometimes seen on the roofs of the old houses in Albany and New York. A ditch is sunk eighteen to twenty inches in depth, and these drains are multiplied over a field at a distance of seven yards apart, and vast estates have been drained in this way. The ditch being sunk and the bottom made smooth, these tiles are laid down with the hollow side on the bottom, the ends placed near each other, and some straw put over the joints to prevent the admission of dirt. These are not so expensive a mode of draining as might be supposed; but so important and useful are they considered, that even a large expense is soon met by the immediate benefits resulting from them. It has added every where at least twenty per cent. to the amount of the wheat crop. A beautiful example came under his own observation not long before he left England. On a part of a field, which had been thus drained, the wheat presented a most luxuriant growth; while on a part of the same field, which had not undergone this operation, the wheat, sowed at the same time, was feeble and just showing itself in straggling parcels above ground. It seems a singular fact that the advantages of this thorough draining are as perceptible in dry as in wet weather. A great evil in clay soils is that they become in dry weather hard and baked, and impermeable to the roots of the plants. The water, by this thorough system of draining being removed quickly from such soils, they are less subject to become hardened by the sun; and remain porous and friable.

There was another improvement which he witnessed, and which he considered as the most remarkable and beautiful agricultural improvement which had ever come under his observation. This was an instance of irrigation. Irrigation is much practiced in Wiltshire in the south of England. He had repeatedly heard of water-meadows; but he had not been able to form a very satisfactory notion of what was intended by that designation. At the Duke of Portland's estate he had an opportunity of witnessing this extraordinary agricultural improvement in a remarkable form. This was in the north of England at a place called Sherwood forest. By a forest in this case you are to understand an extent of country with a thin arid soil, covered with heath and ling, resembling brakes, with here and there a few oaks scattered upon it. Ten years since this land was not valued at a rent of one shilling per acre. It produced nothing. A brook ran near it. This brook passed through a village and gathered some of the refuse matter from the houses. It was conducted by a carrier or canal, similar to the water-way of a factory or the feeder of a canal, along the edge of this tract of land proposed to be irrigated, and suffered to ooze or pass out in small quantities over the land. Successive embankments or barriers were erected to receive and convey the water, and in this way the whole field was irrigated. The water was never permitted to flood the land but was let out in small quantities, and the field was watered in March, May, July and October. No manure was ever put upon this land; and when Mr Webster was there in November, they were then taking off the third crop of hay cut that season; and which certainly was not less than two tons to the acre. After this crop was gathered, sheep were to be turned in upon it, which were expected to lamb at Christmas, so that the lambs might be ready for the market in March, when they would command a high price. There can be no doubt that the sediment deposited by the waters, which they had collected in their transit through the village, contributed much to the extraordinary fertility and productiveness of the land; but there can be as little doubt that pure water it self is an element of immense value in agriculture, and that it contains essentially and abundantly the food of plants.

With respect to implements of husbandry, Mr Webster was of opinion that the English had no advantage over us. Their wagons and carts were not better; their ploughs he considered inferior; their threshing machines inferior to those in use among us. The drill cultivation was a remarkable feature in English husbandry, and executed with great neatness and precision. The young wheat fields appeared like rows of onions. Some of the drill machines were constructed so as to drop small portions of compost manure with the seed at the time of sowing. In this matter he remarked upon our deficiency. Their ground is finely prepared. He saw a field in turnips, where the seed which was carefully soaked and prepared, was sowed on Friday, and the rows of plants were distinctly seen on Monday all over the field. This rapid germination, where it can be effected, has great advantages.

There were various other matters in English agriculture upon which he would gladly remark, though at the risk of taxing too severely the indulgence of the meeting. There were crops cultivated among them of which we had none. The English bean, a small brown bean, was much liked, and produced about forty bushels to the acre. It constituted an excellent feed for their horses.*—

*"THE BEAN (*Vicia Faba.*)—"The bean is a valuable field plant, as affording food for live stock and in part for man. The varieties of the bean are two, garden and field beans, the white and the grey beans. The best soils for beans are clay and strong loams. On such soils they generally succeed wheat or oats, but sometimes also clover leys. Turnip soils or sands are by no means proper for them. The climate most favorable to the bean is one neither very dry nor very moist; the first brings on the fly; and the last prevents the setting of the blossoms. The flour of beans is more nutritive than that of oats, as it appears in the fattening of swine." Dr Darwin thinks them a cheaper provender for horses than that of oats; but being of an oily nature, more difficult of digestion than oats, and he would therefore hesitate in giving them the preference for this object."

The bean is considered as an exhausting crop; but on account of the clean cultivation which is given to it, it often favorably precedes wheat. Our own experiments in the cultivation of the English field bean, which we tried two or three years, resulted in disappointment, as they were in every instance destroyed by a little black fly. This is the great enemy with which they have to contend abroad. Forty bushels to the acre must be regarded as a large yield. From twenty to thirty-five is more common.

The cultivation of the white beans among us is pursued to a very small extent and in a very slovenly and negligent manner. Land that is under a curse and considered fit for nothing else, is usually selected for a crop of white beans; and a farmer would as soon think of dressing his children in peacocks' feathers, as of giv

Vetches or tares, likewise, a sort of pea, was very much cultivated: it was customarily sowed in the fall for sheep, and was eaten by them in the fall and winter.*

The sheep husbandry in England is an immense interest. They will this year cut from sixty to seventy millions of fleeces; and sheep under one year old are not shorn. The average yield may be six to seven pounds to a fleece. There are two principal classes of sheep in England, the long and the short wooled sheep—the Leicestershire and the South-Down. The long-wooled, or Leicester sheep give a fleece of about eight pounds; the short-wooled or South-Down, a fleece of from three to four pounds. Wool is of great importance to them, and mutton in their markets commands high prices. Sheep are to be considered at the head of their agricultural products. The great importance of providing for them, therefore, must be obvious.

Our climate, as has been observed, differs from theirs; but the great inquiry applicable in equal force to both countries is, how can we manage our land in order to produce the largest crops, while at the same time we keep up the condition of the land, and place it if possible in a course of gradual improvement? The success of farming must depend in a considerable degree upon the animals produced and supported on the farm. The farmer may calculate in respect to animals upon two grounds of profit, the natural growth of the animal, and the weight obtained by fattening. The skilful farmer, therefore, expects where he gains one pound in the fattening of his animal to gain an equal amount in the growth. The early maturity of stock is consequently a point of much importance.

Oxen are rarely reared in England for the yoke. In Devonshire and Cornwall, ox teams are employed; but in travelling one thousand miles in England, Mr Webster saw only one ox team, and here they were driven one before the other, and in harnesses similar to the harnesses of horses. Bullocks are raised for the market. It is highly desirable, therefore, both in respect to neat cattle and sheep, that their growth should be rapid and their fattening properties favorable, that they may be early disposed of, and consequently the expense of production lessened.

Is it practicable on the soil and in the climate of Massachusetts to pursue a succession of crops? He could not question it; and he had entire confidence in the improvements to our husbandry and the great advantages which would accrue from a judicious rotation of products. The capacities of the soil of Massachusetts were undoubted. One hundred bushels of corn to an acre had been repeatedly produced, and other crops in like abundance. But this would not effect the proper ends of a judicious and profitable agriculture, unless we could so manage our husbandry that by a judicious and proper succession of crops, the land would not only be restored after an exhausting crop, but gradually enriched by the cultivation. It is of the highest importance that our farmers should increase their power of sustaining live stock, that they may therefrom obtain the means of improving their farms.

He had already remarked that in some things, we had the advantage of them, particularly in agricultural implements. He had seen often the plough with wheels, but he deemed it an awkward and cumbrous instrument.

The live stock of England was in a high state of improvement. He had seen the fine herds of Lord Spencer, Mr Bates and others, with high satisfaction. The specimens of the improved Short Horns brought to this country have been a capital stock; but the character of the stock raised among us should have reference to the nature of our climate. Our present breed of oxen are beyond doubt best suited to the plough. He was inclined to believe that no stock for the dairy among us and upon our short pastures, could be found superior to the Ayrshire breed of cows. Every effort should be made to improve our own breeds. The Devonshire stock brought here at an early period and now generally diffused over New England, would probably prove the best stock upon the whole for us. It undoubtedly admitted of great improvement.

He urged attention strongly to the seeds of grains which we sowed. Great improvements had been made in these matters by a careful selection and culture. He considered that the introduction of the Leicester and South Down sheep among us would prove an eminent advantage. The Leicester require extraordinary feeding, and must always be kept fat. The South-Down were an exceedingly profitable animal both for wool and mutton; and would subsist well in short pastures and an exposed climate. It is not advisable to cross the Leicester with the Merino, or indeed the long-wooled with the short-wooled races.

It was easy to see the immense importance of a successful agriculture to England; and that even the amount of one per cent. added to their agricultural products would materially affect the subsistence and comfort of millions.

It was often said that England was a garden. This was a strong metaphor. There was much poor land and some poor cultivation in England.—But he had looked at their improvements with the highest pleasure and admiration. In associations for the improvement of agriculture, in agricultural societies, we had gone before them. He would not say that they were following our example, but they were now doing what we had done. He had had the pleasure of attending the first meeting of the British National Agricultural Association; and gentlemen of the highest distinction in rank, talents and wealth, were apprized of the great importance of this vast national interest, and were lending their hearty co-operation in the cause. They had made in England immense advances in agriculture, and nearer approaches to the perfection of the art than in any other country.

He concluded by adding that he had on the way some few individuals of the Leicester and South Down breeds of sheep, which, not as the finest, but as fair examples of these valuable breeds, he would be happy to exhibit to the farmers of Massachusetts. They would on their arrival remain in Boston some time for this purpose. He had likewise brought over a few bushels of the best kinds of wheat grown in England for seed, which would be left at the Agricultural Warehouse of Messrs Breck and Co., that the farmers, if they chose, might avail themselves of it.

After Mr Webster closed his remarks, the Commissioner announced to the Chair, that the meeting was honored, as he was most happy to see, by the presence of a distinguished gentleman from a neighboring State, familiar with researches into natural science; and as allusion had been made to the application of science to agriculture, he hoped that gentleman would favor the meeting with his views on this subject. Professor SILLIMAN, being then called upon by the President of the meeting, kindly responded to the call. We can give only very imperfect recollections of a short speech, which highly interested and gratified the assembly.

He began by remarking that he was taken wholly by surprise, nothing having been farther from his thoughts than to say any thing on this occasion. Indeed, after the remarks from the honorable gentleman who has just spoken, to which he had had in common with others the pleasure of listening, there was little that need be said by any one. On an occasion so gratifying as the present, and offering objects of inquiry and discussion so highly important and interesting, he could not, however, withhold the expression of his own personal interest in the case, and what little aid to the cause might be derived from his concurrence.

---

any manure to his white beans. The result is exactly what, under such circumstances, is to be expected. We have no doubt that under proper cultivation, beans may be made a highly productive and valuable crop. For feeding sheep, especially fatting-wethers, we have tried and know their value. Intermixed and ground or alternated with Indian corn, they are exceedingly favorable to the thrift of sheep, and may be to a degree profitably used, notwithstanding the customary difference in price. We can hardly expect, however, that they should take the place of Indian corn; a crop which cannot be grown in England, which is not more exhausting than any other grain crop allowed to perfect its seeds, which when consumed on the farm under good management, returns a large amount to the land; and the rough fodder of which, when well cured, is almost an equivalent for the cost of cultivation.—H. C.

*THE TARE OR VETCH *(vicia sativa,)* is a plant which we have sometimes seen growing, but rarely cultivated among us. There is no hindrance in our climate to its cultivation; and perhaps the great reason why the cultivation of the tare or the field bean has been neglected or not introduced, has arisen from our capacity to produce Indian corn; and our high estimation, which can hardly be extravagant, of its value as food for the brute and the human animal. As green feed especially, and for the purposes of soiling, undoubtedly the tares might be introduced to great advantage.

"The Tare," says Low, "is one of the most esteemed of the leguminous plants of this country, (England.) When used as green forage, they are cut after the pods are formed, but long before the seeds are ripe. Being in the class of crops not allowed to mature their seeds, they are not exhausting to the soil. They are considered as restorative crops, from the quantity of manure which the consumption of them affords. They are exceedingly nutritious, and supply a larger quantity of food for a limited period, than almost any other forage crop. All the animals of the farm are fond of this legume, and all thrive upon it in an eminent degree. Hogs may be fattened entirely upon it. It causes milch cows to give more butter than any other species of food, and it is employed extensively in the feeding of horses. All the English agriculturists are impressed with a high opinion of the value of tares."

Young observes, "tare crops are of such use and importance that not one-tenth of the stock could be sustained without them; horses, cows, sheep and hogs are all fattened upon them; hogs are soiled upon them without any other food. This plant maintains more stock than any other plant whatever. Upon one acre Davis maintained four horses in much better condition than upon five acres of grass. Upon eight acres he has kept twelve horses and five cows for three months without any other food. No artificial food whatever is equal to this excellent plant."

"Tares cut green," Professor Thaer observes, "draw no nourishment from the soil whatever; while made into hay they afford a fodder preferred by cattle to pea straw, and more nutritious than hay or any other herbage."

These high encomiums on this plant will, we hope, invite the attention of our farmers strongly to the subject, that experiments may be made among ourselves of their adaptation to our climate and soil; and of the expediency of introducing them among a rotation of crops in our system of husbandry, if we are so fortunate presently as to have a system.

We shall hereafter resume this subject, and give the best information we can obtain in relation to the whole matter.—H. C.

In the statement relating to British Husbandry, made by the honorable gentleman who preceded him, and in the impressions which that gentleman had gathered from his observation of rural and agricultural life in England, he expressed his entire assent and sympathy. In a visit many years since made by himself to England, he derived from similar though far less perfect opportunities of observation, great pleasure; and he left the country more than thirty years ago, with a strong admiration for the extraordinary improvements and advances made in this great art, in that active, populous, and intelligent community.

The British nation had long since arrived at the conviction, which experience and further inquiry had served only to confirm and strengthen, that science in all its influences might lend a most substantial aid to agriculture. They therefore have largely availed themselves of its aid in the chemical examination of soils and manures, with a view to ascertain their uses and correctives.

The popular impressions formerly entertained, that little was to be gained in agriculture by the application of science, are, in a great measure, removed. Nothing could have less foundation in reason or fact. The advantages of the judicious application of knowledge to art, are every where obvious. All the arts of life have their foundation in knowledge; and all the improvements of mechanism, from a wheelbarrow to a chronometer, are due to science and mechanical philosophy. It will be found true in relation to every thing connected with human improvement and comfort, even in the commonest departments of life, the more knowledge the better.

Inquiries into the nature of soils are of great importance; and in respect to many soils now either wholly unproductive or uncongenial to certain crops, science may enable us to apply the necessary alteratives or correctives. Although we cannot fabricate in a laboratory the soils of a country, we can discover their composition and ascertain their deficiencies: the deficient ingredient may be supplied, and although it should be in small quantities, it may be done in a form that may be generally practicable, and thus may essentially change the character of a soil.

The hon. gentleman has, without doubt, truly assigned the causes of the mildness of the climate of western Europe, and especially of Great Britain; and he has indicated with equal clearness and truth the causes of the comparative coldness of the Eastern countries of North America. In this connexion it may be remarked that the western countries of this continent enjoy a climate far milder than the eastern.

The climate of these western countries is affected by their position in relation to the vast Pacific ocean, which produces an effect similar to that of the Atlantic ocean upon Europe, but in a far greater degree. Thus the climate corresponds to a considerable degree with that of the western shores of Europe. Its mildness is such that the plough may be driven nearly or quite through the whole year. Its temperature is, perhaps, considerably affected by its geological formation and by the extensive range of volcanoes, which stretch along its shores, and some of which are still breathing forth their internal heat. Here every thing is on a vast scale; and the agricultural products will at no distant day become abundant and highly important. We cannot indeed alter the climate of a country; but we may in some measure accommodate our husbandry to its peculiarities and variations.

The larger portion of the soils of New England, as stated by the honorable gentleman, is undoubtedly derived from granite and other primary rocks; and many of the red sandstone soils, such as those in the neighborhood of New Haven, are, in fact, composed of the principles found in granite rocks. Argillaceous soils or those which are derived chiefly from the decomposition of argillaceous or clay slate, abound likewise in many parts of New England and of Massachusetts, and being retentive of water, are found highly productive in grass and grains.

A considerable part of the nutriment of plants is undoubtedly derived from the air, and water or its elements constitutes a large portion of their food. The composition of water is now well understood, and we may with safety, in the presence of this intelligent assembly, speak in technical terms of the constituent parts of water, hydrogen and oxygen, which enter largely into all vegetables. Carbon, which forms also a large part of all plants, though it exists in comparatively small proportions in the form of carbonic acid gas in the air, is yet derived from innumerable sources and supplied to the growing vegetables in abundance. The effects of light upon the green leaves of plants is to decompose the carbonic acid, and the carbon is absorbed to nourish the plant, and the oxygen is evolved into the air; thus it separates from the atmosphere an important element of nutrition, supplying it in the form of food for the plants.

Mr Silliman farther alluded to the curious fact in the constitution of nature, that notwithstanding the superior density or specific gravity of carbonic acid gas, it being much greater than that of the other elements of which the atmosphere is composed, it is nevertheless found in abundance in the elevated regions of the earth, and even on high and barren mountains contributes in an important degree to the support of plants and of trees. If the air and water afford the most important elements of plants, it may be asked, what then is the use of the soil? Its first use is to furnish a point of support in which the plant can fix itself; but it doubtless contains many things which water serves to dissolve, and hold in solution, that they may be taken up by the plants. He expressed his belief that in most of the soils in New England and in Massachusetts, the principal element wanting is lime. This abounds in the western districts of New York, and renders those lands, as in Geneseo for example, on the magnificent farm of Mr Wadsworth, extraordinarily productive in wheat.

The addition of lime to our own soils, he considered of great importance. Our sea-shores abound in shells, whose base is lime, and which are capable, by being burnt, of being converted into the best of lime. New Haven, the town of his own residence, abounds in oysters, both natives and those that in great numbers are colonized there from Virginia. The shells are burnt for manure and applied to the land. The soil of New Haven and its vicinity is derived from a species of red sandstone; but this was composed of the elements of granite quartz, mica and feldspar, the ruins of granitic and other primary rocks.

An interest in agriculture is now awakened in Connecticut which promises the most valuable results; and improvements in cultivation are rapidly advancing. He agreed in the estimation of the Commissioner, of the great value of Indian corn.—One hundred bushels had been repeatedly produced in New Haven upon an acre. A cattle show and agricultural and horticultural fair have been holden in New Haven annually for several years—the last autumn in particular, with a spirit which evinced the lively interest taken in the subject; and he had the pleasure on that occasion of seeing one hundred yoke of very fine oxen from East Haven, attached to a plough, and the plough holden by a venerable man of ninetysix years of age, who laid a furrow along the public square.

In his own opinion, there was no occasion, in an agricultural point of view, to despair of Massachusetts or any part of New England. There were no evils or disadvantages connected with the climate or soil, which could not be met and overcome. It was a great and lamentable error that so many of our young men deserted the pursuits of agriculture to crowd into the trades of cities.

He reverted again to the value and importance of chemical knowledge to agriculture. The analysis of manures was a subject of great and indispensable importance. The knowledge obtained from geological and agricultural surveys and chemical investigations, could not be too highly estimated; and the State could expend no money to more advantage than in procuring and encouraging them. This patronage should not be withdrawn or withheld; and the withholding of it could arise only from a want of a just appreciation of the value of these branches of science. He alluded with much respect to the late lamented Judge Buel, whose skill in the science and application of manures was a just subject of eulogy, and whose success, in converting a portion of the barren and unpromising soil in the vicinity of Albany into fertile and productive fields, was well known and honored.

He pressed the importance of a Board of Agriculture, and congratulated Massachusetts upon the spirit and liberality with which she had regarded the improvement of her husbandry. The subject could not receive too much of her concern. It stood second to no interest but those of a moral and religious character, and indeed it might be said to be nearly allied to them also, since habits of rural industry are the most favorable to good morals.—The value of science in this case could not be too highly estimated. Here science might be regarded as the eye, and practical skill the hand, by which this great art was to be carried forward to perfection.

Improved Stock.—We stopped a short time one day last week, to examine the stock on the farm of the Messrs Lathrop, at South Hadley Falls. They have about a dozen high bred Durham cows, remarkable for their size and beautiful form; and about the same number of young stock, mostly full blood Durham. Among their sheep we noticed a few full blood South Downs. They are the only pure blood sheep of this breed we have noticed in this vicinity. The Berkshire pigs on this farm have all the marks of the genuine. The proprietors of this farm are entitled to much credit for the exertions they have made, and the expense they have incurred, to procure so large a collection of fine stock. There is no danger of "over-issuing" stock of this kind.—*Northampton Rep.*

A farmer in Pemberton, N. J., recently slaughtered a lot of twentyfive pigs, whose aggregate weight, after they were dressed, was eleven thousand eight hundred and twentyfive pounds. The average weight was four hundred and seventythree pounds.

From the Journal of the English Agricultural Society.

PRESENT STATE OF THE SCIENCE OF AGRICULTURE IN ENGLAND.

[Continued.]

There is no department of agriculture in which minute inquiry is more needed than this: first, to examine accurately the various diseases of plants, and to note the habits of the animals which prey on them; then to ascertain, if possible, the remedies that may be applied; and the followers of kindred sciences may be fairly invited to aid us in the formation of this branch of knowledge, which may be called agricultural pathology. But even when the crop is ready for harvest, it must not be supposed that there is no doubt remaining, no room for further improvement. With regard to corn, much injury arises to it from its being exposed to wet after it has been cut, when it may be discolored at least, and often begins to grow in the sward or the sheaf. If left too long, on the other hand, in the hope of dry weather, it becomes overripe, and a portion of the grain is lost by being shed on the ground. It is no new remark, however, that as soon as any portion of the straw has turned yellow, the ascent of sap from the root is cut off, and that though the ear be partly green, it will ripen henceforth as well when severed from the ground as it will if it be left standing. If this supposition be correct, it might enable the business of harvest to be commenced earlier, when a clear sky invites the reaper into the wheat field; and would be so far beneficial, though not in a very material degree. The late ripening of the corn in the northern parts of this island, where from the moisture of the summers following cold springs, crops are sometimes not secured for two months after our southern harvest is ended, requires a more effectual remedy if such can be found; and it has been suggested, that as seed grown in southern climates retains for some time its habits of early ripeness, though grown under the more chilly sun of the north, seed might be advantageously borrowed by our northern farmers from the warmer parts of the country. The suggestion, however, can be regarded as yet merely as speculative. But the power of improvement does not cease when the corn is placed in the rickyard; and here we have not to inquire or to guess, but simply to look at the practice of the practical farmer in the Lothians and in Northumberland. There, instead of the thresher and his flail, may be seen the machine, not driven however by horses, for then the advantage might be more doubtful, seeing that the labor is distressing to the animals, and withdraws them, moreover, from the work of the fields, but impelled by wind or water, or steam, and that on almost every farm. In France, too, it appears that not only travelling threshing machines are employed, as is the case here, but that it is proposed to work these by steam engines carried with them. It may be objected, indeed, by the farmer, that if he gave up his hand-threshing, he would be at a loss to find employment for his men in the winter. The objection, however, shows a want of confidence in the power of permanent improvement judiciously applied on the soil to bring back its cost with interest, nor can this objection be allowed any weight as long as a single acre of the farm is stagnant with water, or dry because the soil is shallow, while there is a possibility of its being deepened. Indeed, if you once establish a moving power on your farm, whether steam, water, or wind, it is not the labor only of threshing that may be saved to men or horses, but the winnowing, the dressing, the chaff-cutting; even the turnip-slicing machine, when the turnip is consumed at home, may be grafted on to the principal wheels, and thus borrow their motion. The more labor is thus set free from mere work of routine, the more will be applied to the further improvement of the parent of all agricultural labor, the soil. Having mentioned the turnip slicer, we cannot but say that, while we would willingly rest the necessity for increased intercourse among the agricultural body, upon the varying practices which prevail in different parts of England with regard to the turnip alone, a strong argument may be drawn for it from the limited use even of this implement only. It consists in some simple machinery of knives, turned by a handle, enclosed within a box, above which is a trough into which the whole turnips are placed, and below which the slices fall into another receptacle: the whole may be placed on a wheel and two legs, and moved about the field like a wheelbarrow. The advantage is two-fold, saving the teeth of the old ewes, for which the Swedish turnips, especially, are too hard; saving the waste of this valuable root, which, when partially scooped out by the sheep, is rotted and trampled about with great waste. The economy effected by this simple machine, which costs but 6 or £7., has been stated to us by an authority which would at once be admitted as very high, to be no less than one-third of the whole produce. If it be taken, however, only at a fourth or a fifth, why, it may be asked, has not every farm in the country been long since furnished with this cheap apparatus? If a contrivance were discovered in Manchester which should save one-fifth of the cotton consumed in a manufacture, (were such a saving possible,) not a year would pass before most of the old machinery would be replaced by the new, and such changes are constantly taking place there, at the expense of many thousand pounds; but the turnip is the raw material of the farmer's stock, and the farmer is of the same enterprising race with the manufacturer: why, then, but on account of the separate and secluded scene of his industry, is the spread of agricultural inventions so slow—the extension of those which concern manufactures, so rapid? and what but a central connection of the cultivators of the soil can diminish the distance and remove the obstruction?

The mention of this last instrument has brought us to a most essential element of farming, that we have hitherto passed by,—the animals, which, while they embellish and enliven rural scenery, are indispensable to the fruitfulness of the soil. It is a subject which the English agriculturist may enter upon with satisfaction. There seems indeed to be in the people of this country a peculiar disposition and talent for encouraging the finest animal forms, and producing, by careful attention to the selection of the parents, new families, in which are perpetuated, by descent, useful and symmetrical excellence. It is not only the English race-horse, improved from the Arab and Barb, that is eagerly purchased and exported to every civilized country, but the Durham bull (like him too supposed to be descended from a foreign ancestor, derived in this case from Holland,) the new Leicester sheep, and even the Berkshire hog, are the acknowledged sources from which other nations seek to enrich and refine the blood of their several live stock. National gratitude requires that, whenever the new Leicester sheep is mentioned, the name of Mr Bakewell, of Dishley, by whom it was produced about a century since, from unknown parents, should not be forgotten; nor that of Mr Colling, in connexion with our beautiful short horns. This indeed has been the popular branch of English farming, and among its zealous patrons may be named the late and present Dukes of Bedford, the Duke of Richmond, the Marquis of Exeter, Lord Leicester, and Lord Spencer. Such indeed is the pleasure of seeing the form of the sire reproduced or excelled in the offspring, (and the coins of the Sicilian Greeks show how fine is the form of the bull,) that there is some danger lest the end pursued should be forgotten in the means of attaining it. Not that it can be necessary in an agricultural journal to vindicate our annual shows of fat cattle, since although those cattle may be more fat than the ordinary market requires, the power of reaching that excessive size is the only test by which the capacity for acquiring useful marketable condition at the cheapest expense of food and at the earliest age, can be tried under the encouragement of public emulation and competition. That object has been also practically attained to a high degree. The saving effected in the cost of production, through the early maturity of the new Leicester sheep, or of the cross between the new Leicester and Cotswold, has been calculated, by a practical farmer in Gloucestershire, at nearly twenty per cent.; that is to say, it would have cost about one-quarter of the outlay more to supply the present quantity of mutton consumed in this country under the old system than by the new. This may be taken as a moderate estimate, so far as the new Leicester blood and its propensity to early fatness has hitherto extended. It may be worth the inquiry how far the South-Down race has been improved in this respect, or how far it may be capable of such improvement, and of thus combining rapid maturity with its own superior hardihood.—There can be no doubt, however, that in many of our agricultural districts the pure improved blood, whether of sheep or cattle, is little known; and the extension of the advantages secured by the stage of perfection to which these animals have already been carried into such districts will arise, it may be hoped, from the Society's cattle shows.

(Concluded next week.)

From Youatt's Treatise on Cattle.

THE LONDON DAIRIES.

The dairies of the metropolis are objects of much interest to the stranger and to the agriculturist. In pursuit of the object of this work, we travelled over the greater part of the United Kingdom; and although we often had no other recommendation than the simple statement of the purport of our journey, we met with very few cases of incivility or of unwillingness to give us the fullest information; but when we returned to our usual residence, and where we expected most facility in the attainment of our object, we will not say that the refusal to admit us was accompanied by rudeness, but the gate of the dairy remained closed. This was the case with our overgrown milk establishments. It was a species of illiberality on which we had not calculated; but it mattered little, for we had seen many of the smaller ones, and we could guess with tolerable accuracy at the difference of treatment in some points; indeed they had been already whispered to us, and we had besides a minute and accurate account of them in the Magazine of our friend Mr Berry.

The number of cows kept for the purpose of supplying the inhabitants of the metropolis and its environs with milk is about 12,000. They are, with very few exceptions, of the short-horn breed—the Holderness or Yorkshire cow, and almost invariably with a cross of the improved Durham blood.—The universal preference given to this breed by such a body of men, differing materially on many branches of the treatment of cattle, is perfectly satisfactory as to their value, and that on three distinct points.

First, as to the quantity of milk. This we need not press, for the enemies of the short horns have never contested this point. There is no cow which pays so well for what she consumes in the quantity of milk that she returns.

This, however, is not all, though it may be the principal thing which enters into the calculation of the metropolitan dairymen.

The name of the new milk has something very pleasant about it, but it is an article which rarely makes its appearance at the breakfast or tea table of the citizen. That which is got from the cow at night is put by until the morning, and the cream skimmed off, and then a little water being added, it is sold to the public as the morning's milk. The *real* morning's milk is also put by and skimmed, and, being warmed a little, is sold as the evening's milk. This is the practice of most or all of the little dairymen who keep their half a dozen cows; and if this were all, and with these people it is nearly all, the public must not complain: the milk may be lowered by the warm water, but the lowering system is not carried to any great extent, for there is a pride among them that their milk shall be better than that of the merchants on a yet smaller scale, who purchase the article from the great dairies; and so it generally is. The milk goes from the yard of the great dairy into the possession of the itinerant dealers perfectly pure; what is done with it afterwards, and to what degree it is lowered and sophisticated, is known only to these retail merchants.

The proprietor of the large dairy is also a dealer in cream to a considerable extent among these people; he is also a great manufacturer of butter, for he must have milk enough to answer every demand, and that demand is exceedingly fluctuating; then it is necessary that the quality of the milk should be good, in order that he may turn the overplus to profitable account in the form of cream or butter. The employment of the short-horn cow, in all the dairies, is a convincing proof that her milk is not so poor as some have described it to be.

It is the practice in most of the dairies to fatten a cow as soon as her milk becomes less than four quarts a day. They are rarely suffered to breed while in the dairyman's possession. The fact of their being so often changed is a proof that while the cow gives a remunerating quantity of milk for a certain time, she is rapidly and cheaply fattened for the butcher as soon as her milk is dry. Were much time or money employed in preparing her for the market, this system would not answer, and would not be so universally adopted. Fattening and milking properties can, therefore, combine in the same animal, and they do so here.

Mr Laycock, however, does not adopt this as a general rule. The cows that are more than usually good milkers are suffered to take the bull when in season. He always keeps some good short horn bulls for this purpose. It sometimes happens that the cow will continue to give milk until within a few weeks of calving; and he judges, and perhaps rightly, that this is a more profitable course than to fatten and get rid of her, with the probability that he might replace her by a cow that would give a less quantity of milk.

The present market price of a good dairy cow is about 20*l.*, but the owners of the small dairies have no little trouble to get a good cow. The jobbers know that they will have a ready market for a considerable portion of their lot in the yards of the great cow-proprietors, and will probably get a larger price than the poorer man would give; and therefore Messrs Rhodes, or Laycock, or one or two others, have always the first selection. Mr Laycock has peculiar advantages for obtaining good cattle. In addition to his dairy, he has sheds that will contain five or six thousand beasts. A great proportion of them halt on his premises for a day or two before they are brought into the market. In addition to the shilling a night which he charges for their standing, he claims the milk of the cows as his perquisite. The cows are milked by his people; he therefore knows beforehand the quantity of milk which each will yield, and he is thus enabled to cull the very best of the herd. The dairymen do not like a cow until she has had her third or fourth calf, and is five or six years old; she then yields the greatest quantity of milk, and of the best quality. Two gallons of milk per day is the quantity which each cow is expected to yield in order to be retained in the dairy. Taking one cow with another, the average quantity obtained is rather more than nine quarts.

When she begins to fail in her milk, she is fattened on oil cake, grains, and cut clover hay, and disposed of. The dairyman calculates on getting something more for her than when he first bought her, but sometimes he meets with an animal that seems to verify the old prejudice against cows in good condition. He bought her for known milking properties, but she continues so poor that he in a manner hides her in some corner of his dairy. She, however, does her duty; she yields him plenty of milk, but that at length dries up; and he is unable, try what he will, to get much flesh upon her bones, and he sells her for less than half of her first price.

The quantity of milk yielded by all these cows, at 9 quarts per day, amounts to 39,420,000 quarts, or 27 quarts of genuine milk for each individual.

The retail dealers usually sell the milk for 4*d.* per quart, after the cream is separated from it, and then obtain 3*s.* per quart for the cream; beside this, a great deal of water is mixed with this skimmed milk; so that we far underrate the price when we calculate that the genuine milk sells at 6*d.* per quart, which makes the money expended in milk in the British metropolis amount to 985,500*l.* or nearly a million pounds per annum.

If we again divide the 985,500*l.* by 12,000, (the number of cows,) we shall have the strange and almost incredible sum of more than 82*l.* as the money produced by the milk of each cow. This is divided among a variety of persons, and after all affords but a scanty subsistence to many of them; but it unequivocally proves the rascality that pervades some of the departments of the concern.

We acquit the wholesale dealers of any share in the roguery, nor do we believe that their profits are exorbitant. They sell the milk to the retail dealers at a price that, according to Dr Middleton, would enable them to clear 64 per cent., without adulterating the article—(we believe that 50 per cent. would be nearer the truth.) When we consider the nature of the business, the distance the milk girls have to travel, and the time wasted in selling their little quantities from door to door, this profit is not too great; but when they abstract the cream and add the water, and (unless they are much belied) some extraneous and abominable articles, the actual profits will far exceed cent. per cent. In the spring of the year, when London is full, the consumption and the deterioration are greatest. In the latter part of the year the cream is converted into butter, and the buttermilk given to the hogs.

(To be continued.)

Profitable Farming.—Mr James Hill, of West Cambridge, has taken in ninety successive days, five thousand dollars in cash, in Boston market, for articles raised on his farm.

Mr Isaac Locke, of the same town, has raised the present year, 30 barrels of quinces, which sold on the ground for seven dollars a barrel; he has also sold in the same way, the present autumn, several hundred barrels of Baldwin Apples at $3 per barrel.

The value of the Strawberries raised in West Cambridge and sold in the Boston market, is more than was taken thirty years ago for all the agricultural products of the town put together.

The apple orchards of this town are extensive. Two hundred, three hundred, five hundred, and sometimes a thousand barrels of carefully picked apples are produced in a single year by one farmer.

Mr George Pierce, of the same town, cultivates only *seven acres* and yet he has taken in the market for produce, the present season, as by memorandum kept, *nearly or quite* four thousand dollars.

This season, very early, among his articles for market, was about one third of an acre of the dandelion, which grows spontaneously in many mowing fields; these he with some difficulty obtains from the seed; but the crop turns out very profitable. He had about an acre of strawberries, from which upwards of two thousand boxes of that fruit were picked last summer; these, at 37 1-2 to 50 cents a box, for which they readily sold in the market, produced not a small profit on a single acre.

Mr Pierce also cultivated the raspberry, which thrives with great luxuriance. He thinks he could make of the *blackberry*, which grows in the hedges and amongst piles of decayed wood or rocks in neglected fields, a profitable article.—*Monthly Visitor.*

A Large Hog.—We notice in several of our exchange papers an account of a very extraordinary hog raised in Wallinford, Vt. and sold for two hundred dollars to a gentleman who designs to transport him over the country as a show. He weighs, it is said, *sixteen hundred pounds* and is *three or four years old!* He is a monster indeed. We several years since saw a hog that weighed 1350 lbs., and was thought to exceed every thing in the hog line. There are, at this time in this town, several very large hogs, one owned by Mr Timothy Rix, which is estimated to weigh eight or nine hundred pounds, and is not yet, we believe, eighteen months old. Should the creature be kept until he reaches the age of "three or four years," we doubt very much whether the Wallingford hog would have much to brag of when compared with the hog of Mr R.—*Haverhill (N. H.) Republican.*

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

Boston, Wednesday, January 22, 1840.

We publish the subjoined letter for its contents, which will be found instructive; and for another good reason, to which we invite the special attention of our friends. We mean in particular, as an answer to the circular, which three months since we addressed to the farmers, soliciting the information which they could give us respecting the application of sundry manures, particularly lime, marl, bone dust, ashes, gypsum, and composts of peat and other materials. We know that many farmers can give us on these subjects much valuable information, and we again request their attention to it.—We beg them to favor us in their way by letter per mail, with the results of their experience, promising them that we will give no names to the public without their consent, and make no use of their communications but such as may meet their approbation. H. C.

—

Mr Colman—When I received your circular requesting information on the uses of composts and mineral manures, it was my intention to have taken a tour among our farmers, and collected the result of their experience with regard to these things. But my leisure has, very unexpectedly, been occupied in a different way. I shall therefore not be able to communicate so many facts to you with regard to these things as I should be glad to. Such as I have, however, it is a pleasure to communicate.

We have never used the composts for field culture to a very great extent, but have repeatedly taken the black earth from swamps and mixed it with lime or house ashes, probably in proportion of one-third of the latter. The two substances should be well incorporated, and lie exposed to the sun a few days in small heaps, say of one load each, previous to being applied. We have found this much more beneficial to all garden crops than animal manure in any state, and almost invariably a preventive of insects. There can be no doubt but it would be found a superior article for field culture, especially for turnips. Two years since, when removing the surface, (which is very dark for eighteen inches in depth,) from the iron mines, we caused the laborers to pile the turf and *soil* in separate places from the subsoil, that at a convenient season we might remove it to some of the land of a different variety. In some of these heaps we put lime, though in quantities too small to have much effect. We have used this earth and its small quantity of lime (not one bushel of the latter to ten of the former,) for various crops, and have found it very good for ruta bagas, wheat and grass. That without lime we have found valuable for potatoes, if put in the hill. From one quarter of an acre where this was applied, last spring, with a spoonful of plaster thrown upon it, we harvested sixty bushels: a good crop for the season. The soil on which this experiment was tried, was an exhausted loam. We tried that with lime for corn on a loam by the side of hog manure on one side and stable manure on the other. That manured with compost was about three-fourths as heavy as the former, and ripened well. We cannot recommend it for use to the exclusion of animal manures, but where, as there is every where, a lack of them, we think it well worthy of the farmer's notice. Probably had our experiment been made with pure swamp mud instead of a soil that has been under cultivation for half a century, it would have succeeded much better than it now did.

We find a great benefit in mixing the manures of different animals. Horse manure is too hot and dry for most soils. Hog manure is too strong, and encourages too great a growth for good earing; but when these are mixed with those of cattle and sheep, their objectionable qualities as single manures are imparted to the others, and the qualities of all increased. Earths thrown in with them become a part of them and increase their quantity.

Bone dust.—The first experiment with this article hereabouts which has ever come to my knowledge, has been tried on a field of turnips this season. The land was one of our clayey hills. After the turnips were sown, the dust, at the rate of about four bushels to an acre, was sown along the drills of all except two in the centre. These through the season shewed that they had been slighted, and at harvest time they showed their resentment by refusing to yield the cultivator a single turnip for his labor. Those on the part dusted were large and as clean as we ever saw. We have no doubt but bone dust will eventually become a very common manure in the country.

Yours, &c. W. BACON.

Mount Osceola, Dec. 26, 1839.

AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

The Agricultural Society of Westboro' and its vicinity assembled on Thursday, 2d inst. and held a meeting in the Town Hall in the afternoon, where an address was delivered, and adjourned until five o'clock, when they sat down to a sumptuous repast. They met again at a public hall in the evening for an intellectual feast and held a discussion on a subject which had been before assigned for consideration.

The question presented to the meeting was—What is the operation of the alkalies, lime, ashes, and gypsum upon vegetation?

The discussion was opened by Dr Burnet, in a lucid and instructive exposition of his views, coinciding in the main with the views of Dr Dana on this subject, as given in the second report of Prof. Hitchcock, in his re-examination of the Economical Geology of Massachusetts. Dr Burnet was followed by Messrs Brigham, Mr Ford, Mr Chamberlain, Mr Denny, Mr Church, Mr Fay and other gentlemen; and the evening was spent in perfect good humor, and was altogether adapted to promote inquiry, experiment, and agricultural enterprise and improvement.

Dr Burnet gave it as his opinion that the operation of all the alkaline manures is the same; that they are not in themselves the food of plants; and that their principal use is to render the vegetable pabulum, the food of plants, scientifically denominated geine, soluble, and put it in a condition to be taken up by their roots. The question before the meeting was as to what is the nature of the operation of these substances. Several gentlemen went into the statement of facts within their own experience, to illustrate their actual effects, as indeed in the limited range of human inquiries, the best means of arriving at some correct notions of the mode of their operation.

These facts were highly interesting. There was scarcely an exception to the conviction that ashes in their application were almost invariably beneficial and powerful. Mr Church had found no perceptible advantage from them when applied round the corn on the surface at the time of hoeing. Mr Ford had found great benefit from this application. The circumstance of this difference in the results is not easily determined, as all the circumstances of the case were not minutely stated. It would seem in Mr Ford's case that rain fell immediately after the application of the ashes, and their efficacy upon the crop appeared to follow at once. It is easy to suppose that this rain may have contributed to carry the efficacious ingredients of the ashes at once in a liquid form to the roots of the plants: but we hazard no theory of its operation.

Several gentlemen had applied lime, most of them in some mixed form, either compounded with mud or peat, or as in Mr Fay's case, in a compound of lime one half, ashes one quarter, and gypsum one quarter; but as well as we can remember, there was not a case mentioned where it had been applied separately and in such a form that its efficacy or inefficacy could be fairly tested, that it had proved evidently efficient. The statement of Mr —— Brigham seemed conclusive, that in its application to a crop of wheat, although its effects were not seen upon the wheat, yet upon the grasses, which followed the succeeding year, the effects were decisive and highly beneficial.

We do not undertake to give any thing like a report of the discussion on this subject. We can only say that it was conducted with perfect urbanity and mutual gratification and advantage.

This society has made a capital beginning; and if they can but keep up the spirit with which they have begun, the meetings will prove occasions not only of agreeable entertainment as matter of social intercourse, but directly promotive of the agricultural improvement of the vicinity and the State. We are happy in thinking that some men have got hold of the handles of the plough in this case, who will not be disposed to look back. H. C.

ELECTION OF GOVERNOR.

The Legislature of the State assembled on Wednesday, the first day of January, and opened the session.—The division of parties approaching nearly to an equality, the perfection of the organization of the government has proceeded slowly. The matter, however, was completed on Saturday, by the inauguration of Marcus Morton as Governor, and George Hull as Lieut. Governor of Massachusetts for the current year.

It is not for us to enter the political arena, if we had the disposition to do it; but we have not the disposition. We will not refrain from saying, however, that we believe that neither Massachusetts nor any other State ever had a more accomplished, punctual, conscientious, faithful magistrate than has just left the chair of State; and we think it would be impossible for the bitterest enemy, if he has any enemies, to point to a single act of omission or commission, marked by intentional error. Mistakes of judgment there may have been; but if any have occurred, they are as few as ever marks the course of any man. He retires under the enviable consciousness, the highest and purest reward which any good man can ask or desire, of having faithfully performed his duty and fulfilled his trust; and of having failed in no respect whatever of meeting the high expectations of those by whose suffrages he was elevated to office.

He has been displaced not for any failure in duty or through any distrust of his eminent qualifications for any place of trust and office to which his fellow-citizens may see fit to advance him; but in the struggles of parties and the evenly balanced condition in which they stand to each other at the present time in the State, he has failed of his election; and the popular voice has placed another gentleman in power. In our form of social arrangement and government, it becomes the duty of every good citizen in such a case to acquiesce cheerfully in the lawful decision of the majority.

It is a subject of honest pride and of just congratulation, that the State has many excellent and intelligent citizens, in every respect qualified to discharge with honor to themselves and benefit to the community, the duties which it may demand of them. In this case we have reason to congratulate the commonwealth and country on the elevation to the highest office of dignity and authority in the commonwealth, of a gentleman, who by his exemplary and irreproachable character, his legal acquirements, his long experience, his eminent talents, and his intelligent and honorable performance of the public duties in which through life he has been engaged, is highly qualified for the trust which has devolved upon him. It becomes every good citizen to regard him with the respect due to his character and the

best wishes for his success; and to merge every private consideration in a sincere concern for the public honor and the general welfare. H. C.

MR. WEBSTER'S SEEDS NOT YET ARRIVED.

At the Agricultural meeting at the State House on the evening of the 13th, Mr Webster stated that he had selected some seeds while in England, which he thought would be important to introduce into this country, and that he had ordered them to the Agricultural Depository in this city, Nos. 51 & 52 North Market street, where those who wished to try them would have the opportunity to procure them. As there has been considerable enquiry about them, we would inform our agricultural friends that we have received an invoice of the seeds and that they are on the way from New York: as soon as they come to hand we shall give notice in the N. E. Farmer, and publish a list of the seeds.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

N. E. Farmer Office, Boston, Jan. 21st, 1840.

☞NOTICE.

The Flower Committee of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society are respectfully requested to meet at the Rooms of the Society, 23 Tremont Row, on Saturday next 25th inst. at 11 o'clock, A. M., for the purpose of awarding premiums for the past year.

Per order, S. WALKER, *Chairman.*

BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, Jan. 20, 1840.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

At Market 320 Beef Cattle, and 800 Sheep. About 300 Sheep were reported last week.

Prices.—*Beef Cattle.*—The Butchers were largely supplied last week, consequently purchased less, and prices did not advance as much as was expected from the limited number at Market. We quote First quality, $6 25 a $6 50. Second quality, $5 75 a $6 00. Third quality, $4 75 a $5 50.

Barrelling Cattle.—Mess $5 50; No. 1 $5 00.

Cows and Calves.—Very few at market and very if any sales effected.

Sheep.—Lots were sold at $2 50, $2 75, $3 00, $3 75, $4 50, and $5 00.

Swine.—None at market.

THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietors of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, week ending January 19.

Jan., 1840.		7 A.M.	12, M.	5, P.M.	Wind.
Monday,	13	12	30	17	S.
Tuesday,	14	15	36	28	S. E.
Wednesday,	15	22	25	15	N.
Thursday,	16	10*	5	2	W.
Friday,	17	10*	8	3	W.
Saturday,	18	10*	5	2	W.
Sunday,	19	4	22	18	N. W.

* Below zero.

Culture of the Beet and Manufacture of Beet Sugar.

Just published and for sale at the N. E. Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, a treatise on the Culture of the Beet and Manufacture of Beet Sugar, by David Lee Child. Price 75 cents.

January 22.

A MAN WANTED.

To do the work on a small place, a few miles from the city. He must understand the cultivation of vegetables, fruits, &c., and the care of horse, cows, &c. A single man, from 20 to 30 years of age, of steady and industrious habits, may inquire at this office. J. B. I.

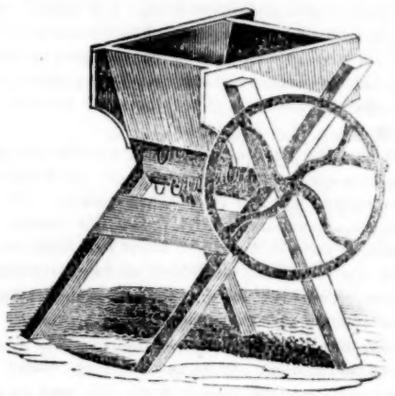
January 15.

ROHAN POTATOES,

For sale at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, No. 52 North Market Street, at $5 per barrel.

October 16. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

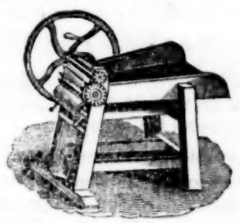
VEGETABLE CUTTER.



Willis's New Improved Vegetable Cutter. This machine is calculated for cutting up vegetables and esculent roots for fodder, and is one of the most useful and economical machines that the farmer can use. The subscribers feel great confidence in recommending this machine to the public; they are aware that it has been long wanted and they now offer a machine that cannot fail to give satisfaction upon a fair trial. It will cut with ease from one to two bushels per minute, in the best possible manner, and is not liable to get out of order, being made in the most substantial manner. No farmer should be without one of them. For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse, 51 and 52 North Market Street.

December 18. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

GREEN'S PATENT STRAW CUTTER.



JOSEPH BRECK & CO. at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, have for sale, Green's Patent Straw, Hay and Stalk Cutter, operating on a mechanical principle not before applied to any implement for this purpose. The most prominent effects of this application, and some of the consequent peculiarities of the machine are:

1. So great a reduction of the quantum of power requisite to use it, that the strength of a half grown boy is sufficient to work it very efficiently.

2. With even this moderate power, it easily cuts two bushels a minute, which is full twice as fast as has been claimed by any other machine even when worked by horse or steam power.

3. The knives, owing to the peculiar manner in which they cut, require sharpening less often than those of any other straw cutter.

4. The machine is simple in its construction, made and put together very strongly. It is therefore not so liable as the complicated machines in general use to get out of order.

BONE MANURE.

The subscriber informs his friends and the public, that after ten years experience, he is fully convinced that ground bones form the most powerful stimulant that can be applied to the earth as a manure

He keeps constantly on hand a supply of Ground Bone, and solicits the patronage of the agricultural community. Price at the Mill 35 cents per bushel; put up in casks and delivered at any part of the city at 40 cents per bushel, and no charge for casks or carting

Also, ground Oyster Shells

Orders left at the Bone Mill, near Tremont road, in Roxbury, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, No 52 North Market Street, or through the Post Office will meet with prompt attention

NAHUM WARD.

AMERICAN SWINE BREEDER.

Just published and for sale by JOSEPH BRECK & CO. the American Swine Breeder; a Practical Treatise on the Selection, Rearing, and Fattening of Swine, by Henry W. Ellsworth: price 75 cents.

January 15.

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

CORRECTED WITH GREAT CARE, WEEKLY.

		FROM	TO
Alum, American,	pound	5	5½
Ashes, Pearl, per 100 lbs.		5 50	5 75
Pot, " " "		5 12	5 25
Beans, white, Foreign,	bushel	1 62	2 00
" " Domestic,	"	2 00	2 00
Beef, mess,	barrel	14 00	14 50
No. 1.	"	12 00	12 50
prime,	"	10 00	10 50
Beeswax, white,	pound		
yellow,	"	28	35
Bristles, American,	"	35	70
Butter, shipping,	"	11	13
dairy,	"	17	20
Candles, mould,	"	13	14
dipped,	"		
sperm,	"	40	41
Cheese, new milk,	pound	10	
Cider,	dozen	1 50	1 75
refined,	barrel	2 50	4 50
Bone Manure,	bushel		35
in casks,	"		40
Feathers, northern, geese,	pound		
southern, geese,	"	37	46
Flax, (American)	"	9	12
Fish, Cod, Grand Bank,	quintal	2 62	2 70
Bay, Chaleur,	"	2 25	2 31
Haddock,	"	1 25	1 50
Mackerel, No. 1,	barrel	12 00	12 25
No. 2,	"	10 00	10 25
No. 3,	"	6 00	6 25
Alewives, dry salted, No. 1.	"	6 00	6 25
Salmon, No. 1,	"	18 00	20 00
Flour, Genesee, cash,	"	6 62	6 75
Baltimore, Howard street,	"	6 62	6 75
Richmond canal,	"		6 50
Alexandria wharf,	"		
Rye,	"	4 00	4 25
Meal, Indian, in bbls.	"	4 00	4 12
Grain: Corn, northern yellow,	bushel		85
southern flat, yellow,	"	69	71
white,	"	65	67
Rye, northern,	"	75	80
Barley,	"	75	80
Oats, northern, (prime)	"	45	47
southern,	"	37	40
Grindstones, pr ton of 2000 lbs. rough,		18 00	20 00
do. do. do. finished,		28 00	30 00
Hams, northern,	pound	9	10
southern and western,	"	7	8
Hay, best English, per ton,		16 00	18 00
Eastern screwed,		13 00	14 00
Hops, 1st quality,	pound	18	20
2d quality,	"	16	18
Lard, Boston,	"		9
southern,	"	7	8
Leather, Philadelphia city tannage,	"	29	30
do. country do.	"	25	27
Baltimore city tannage,	"	26	28
do. dry hides,	"	22	24
New York red, light,	"	21	23
Boston, do. slaughter,	"	21	22
Boston dry hides,	"	20	22
Lime, best sort,	cask	85	90
Molasses, New Orleans,	gallon	27	30
Sugar House,	"	50	55
Oil, Sperm, Spring,	"	1 10	1 12
Winter,	"		1 20
Whale, refined,	"	50	55
Linseed, American,	"	70	75
Neat's Foot,	"	95	
Plaster Paris, per ton of 2200 lbs.		2 87	3 00
Pork, extra clear,	barrel		
clear,	"	15 00	16 00
Mess,	"	12 50	13 00
Prime,	"	11 50	12 50
Whole Hogs,	pound	5	6
Seeds: Herd's Grass,	bushel	2 50	3 00
Red Top, southern,	"	80	1 00
northern,	"		1 50
Canary,	"	2 25	2 50
Hemp,	"	2 25	2 50
Flax,	"	1 37	1 62
Red Clover, northern,	pound		
Southern Clover, none,	"		
Soap, American, Brown,	"	5	7
" Castile,	"	12	13
Tallow, tried,	"	11	12
Teazles, 1st sort,	pr M.	2 50	3 00
Wool, prime, or Saxony Fleeces,	pound		
American, full blood, washed,	"		
do. 3-4ths do.	"		
do. 1-2 do.	"		
do. 1-4 and common,	"		
Northern pulled. Pulled superfine,	"		
No. 1,	"		
No. 2,	"		
No. 3,	"		

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COTTAGE DOOR.

BY T. E. HERVEY, ESQ.

How sweet the rest that labor yields
The humble and the poor,
Where sits the patriarch of the fields
Before his cottage door!
The lark is singing in the sky,
The swallow in the caves,
And love is beaming in each eye
Beneath the summer leaves!

The air amid his fragrant bowers
Supplies unpurchased health,
And hearts are bounding 'mid the flowers,
More dear to him than wealth:
Peace, like the blessed sunlight, plays
Around his humble cot,
And happy nights and cheerful days
Divide his lowly lot.

And when the village Sabbath bell
Rings out upon the gale,
The father bows his head to tell
The music of its tale—
A fresher verdure seems to fill
The fair and dewy sod,
And every infant tongue is still,
To hear the word of God!

Oh! happy hearts!—To Him who stills
The ravens when they cry,
And makes the lily 'neath the hills
So glorious to the eye.
The trusting patriarch prays, to bless
His labor with increase;—
Such "ways are ways of pleasantness,"
And all such "paths are peace!"

RULES FOR HOUSE WIVES.

1. When you rise in the morning, never be *particular* about pinning your clothes so very nicely; you can do that at any time.

2. Never comb your hair, or take off your night cap till after breakfast. It is *your* business to take time by the foretop and not let him take you so; therefore keep all right in that quarter till ten o'clock at least.

3. When you begin the business of *your toilet*, you may do it before the window or in the front entry; but the most proper place is in the kitchen.

4. Never have any *particular place* for any thing in your house; and then you may rest assured that *nothing* will ever be out of place; and that is a great comfort in a family.

5. Never sweep your floor, until you know some person is coming in; he will then see how *neat* you are: and, besides, in such cases, even your enemies cannot shake off the *dust of their feet*, against you, though they may the dust of their clothes with which you have covered them by your sweeping.

6. When you have *done* sweeping, leave your broom on the floor, it will then be handy: and being always in sight, and in the way, it will be constantly reminding your husband, when he is in the house, what a smart, nice, pains-taking wife he has.

7. Never follow the barbarous practice of brushing down cobwebs. A man's house is his castle; and so is a spider's. It is a violation of right, and a shameless disrespect to the fine arts.

8. Keep your parlor and bedroom windows shut as close as possible in dog days; this will keep the hot air out—and you will have excellent *fixed* air inside.

9. Keep your *summer cheeses* in your bed chambers;—they enrich the qualities of the atmosphere; and if a stranger should lodge in one of your beds, if he could not *sleep*, he could *eat* for his refreshment.

10. Never teach your daughters to *mend* or *make* any of their own clothes; it is "taking the bread from the mouth of labor"—besides it will make them crooked and give them sore fingers.

11. But if they should insist on *mending* their own garments, they should do it while they are on; this will make them *fit* better: and girls can't leave their work—if they should attempt it, their work would follow them.

12. If your husband's coat is out at *one* of the elbows, don't mend it until it is out at the *other*; then the patches will make it appear uniform, and show that you are *impartial*.

13. Never spoil a joke for a *relation's* sake; nor suppress the truth for *any body's* sake. Therefore, if you don't like your husband as you ought, *out with it*, and convince him you are not a respecter of persons.

14. You should endeavor not to keep your temper: *let it off* as soon and as fast as you can; and you will then be calm and quiet as a bottle of cider after the cork had been drawn half a day.

15. If, on any particular occasion, you are at a loss as to the course you are to pursue, in the management of yourself or family affairs, take down the paper which contains these rules, and read them over and over till you have satisfied your mind—and then go on.—*Methuen Gazette.*

INGENUITY OF RATS.—The rat, that "hateful and rapacious creature," as Goldsmith honestly designates it, formerly abounded in prodigious numbers in Inverness, and a traveller, about the year 1730, describes his surprise at witnessing the flocks of them which used to sally out into the streets in the morning twilight, after dry weather succeeded by a shower of rain. It is related that about this period, when the rats increased to a great degree in some small villages in the Highlands, and found it difficult to subsist, they used to creep into the manes and tails of the *garrons* or ponies, (which were then generally matted and tangled, being seldom subjected to the comb) and in this way were transported to other places, to plant new colonies or find fresh quarters. This mode of conveyance was certainly dexterous and ingenious; but did our readers ever see or hear of a party of rats stealing eggs? The process is this. The roost being discovered and the rats mustered, one of the fraternity, generally of goodly port and dimensions, lies down on his back, and holds the egg within his four limbs, embracing it closely and cordially. His brethren then pull him off by the tail, each taking his turn in dragging the live machine, like the populace at the carriage of a "great man," who, it is probable, may be of a kindred species, the rat species, the rat political. A gentleman in the country informed us the other day, that he was greatly amused at observing one morning the dexterity and perfect fairness with which a small band of these noxious intruders were feasting in his dairy. A pretty capacious dish of milk had been set out to cream, and the rats, finding the prize, immediately commenced superseding the labors of the dairy maid. One of them stood up against the dish, and another mounted his shoulder in due form, like school-boys preparing to plunder an apple tree. He then whisked his tail over the luscious surface of the bowl, and turning round held it out to his expectant companions below, who stripped it of its milky treasure. This was repeated for some time; then another took his place, occasionally shifting the position, and after they had all skimmed the dish and regaled their senses, they scampered off in the morning sunshine to burrow in their holes and corners.—*Inverness Courier.*

SOUND—Of all kinds, it is ascertained, travels at the rate of 13 miles in a minute: the softest whisper travels as fast as the most tremendous thunder. The knowledge of this fact has been applied to the measurement of distances.

Suppose a ship in distress fires a gun, the light of which is seen on shore, or by another vessel, 20 seconds before the report is heard, it is known to be at the distance of 20 times, 1,142 feet, or little more than four miles and a half.

Again, if I see a vivid flash of lightning, and in 2 seconds hear a tremendous clap of thunder, I know that the thunder cloud is not more then 760 yards distant and should instantly retire from any exposed situation.

THE WIFE.—That woman deserves not a husband's generous love who will not greet him with smiles as he returns from the labors of the day; who will not try to chain him to his home by the sweet enchantment of a cheerful heart. There is not one in a thousand that is so unfeeling as to withstand such an influence, and break away from such a home.

JOY AND SORROW.—As the most luxuriant plants thrive best with an equal mixture of sunshine and shade, showery dry weather, and in a soil composed of sand as well as richer materials, mingled in due proportions together, so the human mind is a plant which thrives best with a just proportion of prosperity and adversity, joy and sorrow.

GLORY.—Pliny gives the following character of true glory—"Doing what deserves to be written, and writing what deserves to be read; and rendering the world happy and better for having lived in it."

The editor of the Northampton Courier tells of a silken thread eighteen hundred feet in length, wound without breaking from a single cocoon.

THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER

Is published every Wednesday Evening, at $3 per annum payable at the end of the year—but those who pay within sixty days from the time of subscribing are entitled to a deduction of 50 cents.

TUTTLE, DENNETT AND CHISHOLM, PRINTERS

17 SCHOOL STREET....BOSTON